

TABLE 46.—EFFECT OF ETHER ANESTHESIA ON AVERAGE BROMSULFALEIN RETENTION AND NONPROTEIN NITROGEN LEVELS¹

Patients	All Patients (42 cases)	Patients not Moribund ² (34 cases)	Moribund Patients Only (8 cases)
Age of Patient (years)	24.5	24.8±0.9	23.4
Bromsulfalein Retention on Hospital Entry (percent)	12.8	13.3±1.7	11.6
<i>Nonprotein Nitrogen Level</i> (mg. per 100 cc.)	38.6	37.7±1.7	42.4
Ether Anesthesia Duration (minutes)	140.0	132.0±6.0	175.0
Bromsulfalein Retention, First Postoperative Day (percent)	11.6	8.3±1.4	25.0
<i>Nonprotein Nitrogen Level</i> (mg. per 100 cc.)	47.8	39.7±3.0	76.2
Bromsulfalein Retention, Second Postopera- tive Day (percent)	7.8	6.1±1.2	19.8
<i>Nonprotein Nitrogen Level</i> (mg. per 100 cc.)	48.0	39.9±5.0	93.0

¹ Since there is a possibility that the liver plays a larger role than is now recognized in nonprotein nitrogen levels, the effect of ether anesthesia on the plasma nonprotein nitrogen was also investigated. It has been stated that ether anesthesia produces a rise in the nonprotein nitrogen level. No evidence to substantiate this was found in our patients, if those who are moribund are excluded. It is well-known and confirmed here that the nonprotein nitrogen level rises rapidly in moribund patients.

² Standard errors of the mean are shown for this series to indicate the spread encountered.